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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### VICTORY MUST BE ABSOLUTE

SIR,—THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW gives neither quarter nor comfort to the pacifist. It has use neither for the man of half measures nor for the wabbling partisan. Its editor is refreshingly militant in spirit, from the core out, a patriot. His editorials are like the discharge of well-directed machine guns. His head is in the sunlight. His vision is unobscured by paltry partisan interests. It were a consummation devoutly to be wished if his convictions might enter as a guiding inspiration into the entire national thought.

With no desire even to suggest an adverse judgment toward those in supreme authority in Washington,—on the other hand, I devoutly hope and pray that they may be guided by highest wisdom, by loftiest patriotism, and that they may be heroically enduring to the end,—yet I am profoundly impressed that no more timely words have been published than those uttered in the September editorial: “Take Heed, Washington!”

How immeasurably disastrous it might be, both to the nation and to world-civilization, if our chief authorities should be governed by convictions and policies less discerning, less foreseeing, less firmly patriotic, than those set forth in this editorial! The whole world is racked in the supreme cataclysm of history. The God-given rights and liberties of mankind are under menace of destruction by the most mighty and ruthlessly murderous foe that ever armed itself against civilization. The very underlying philosophy of Prussianism is inhuman. It is the philosophy of the jungle reinforced by all the inventiveness of science. It is a philosophy which absolutely admits of no compromise. Its two extremes, between which there are no halting places, are: either absolute victory and world-sovereignty upon the one hand; or, upon the other hand, for itself most paralyzing and absolute defeat. Between these two extremes are now suspended the fate of justice, of liberty, of democracy—of humanity. Allied democracy must either weakly submit to sign the compact of its own humiliating and disgraceful vassalage; or, at whatever cost of treasure, of hardship, or of blood, to unitedly fight and smite on until this atrocious assassin of mankind is totally disarmed and laid hopeless in the dust.

We are already embarked upon an altogether unprecedented and enormous scale of expenditure. This in itself, in all sanity, ought to

mean nothing less than the most prompt securement and placing aside of numerically the largest available army of American soldiers. To build ships, airplanes, cantonments, and great military depots, without at the same time sending to the battle-front the mightiest of armies, would be to indulge in administrative trifling in the presence of a world-conflagration. The biggest and best furnished fighting army is now the one way of safe and sane economy, and of most effective expediting of the war to its only righteous conclusion. Both bigness and clarity of vision are supremely required of our Washington authorities. The interests of a world-wide humanity demand nothing less than the uncompromising enforcement of Senator Lodge's call for a "dictated peace."

No more subtle peril confronts the world than inheres in German peace propaganda. The Prussian is as cowardly when seeking his personal safety as he is brutal and frightful in inflicting injury when he has the upper hand. When he discovers, as he is sure to do, that his heartless schemes of conquest are thwarted, that his militant hopes are doomed to defeat, then must the world beware of his plausible and perfidious propositions for peace. The nations will have no excuse for being deceived by the plausibilities of any German-proposed peace terms. The Prussian has clearly demonstrated two qualities about himself: first, that when power is with him, he is an arrant bully and a ruthless ruffian; second, that when he is smitten with defeat, he is a craven and a coward, a shameless beggar for his own life and safety. The world is more in peril to-day from Prussian chicanery than from the Prussian sword. When Germany finds that she cannot succeed in arms, then with all the skill of the world's present past-master in Machiavellian arts, she will transform herself, however garbed, into a very sorceress for beguiling the world with the allurements of a false peace. The nation that can be deceived thereby is not wise.

It is not un-Christian to say that Germany merits merciless and incessant hammering until she is utterly beaten down. She is an impenitent sinner. She brings forth no honest fruits meet for repentance. Until she does this, neither God nor man can forgive her. She stands justly arraigned at the bar of civilization as the supreme criminal of history. She has paraded her infamous and immeasurable depravity by enacting upon the largest scale all the notorious arts of deception, of cruelty, of incendiarism, of rape and of murder. She has turned the world of trade into a chaos. She has desolated the fairest of lands. The winds of the world are laden with the wails of widows and of orphans, made such by her cruelties. In pursuit of her murderous ambitions she has mangled, crippled, and made blind the virile young manhood of a whole generation. The present Germany merits no consideration from civilization. I do not say that she should be utterly destroyed. But her intolerable arrogance, her wicked duplicity, her insane obsession of superiority over all the rest of mankind, her inhumanity to man, her brutal and frightful policies of dominion, her beastly and conceited stupidity—these all ought to be relentlessly scourged out of her.

Her wanton, barbarous, and still menacing wickedness has already cost civilization too much to permit any halfway or compromising measures in the final settlement of this war. Germany unwhipped is as dan-

gerous to civilization as would be a mad dog let loose upon a picnic ground. With her present ideals, and her present moods, she deserves all the restraints of prison bars. As a matter of manifest destiny, she is to be defeated in arms. The victory in blood and treasure is immeasurably and unprecedentedly costly. For the allied rulers to allow the German nation, now morally beaten in arms, to gain for itself a final advantage by the plausible methods of her infamous diplomacy would be nothing less than an ignominious and criminal betrayal of the most sacred interests of civilization.

HARRISBURG, PA.

GEORGE P. MAINS.

### TERMS FOR GERMANY

SIR,—There continues to be a great deal of discussion as to how Germany should be dealt with, when she has been, as she surely will be, thoroughly beaten.

The prevailing opinion in the countries fighting her, and it has been widely expressed, seems to favor a commercial boycott, resolutions to that effect having been adopted by many influential bodies, and urged in the press.

The fact seems to have been lost sight of that while the adoption of such a measure would doubtless cripple Germany, it would also react upon the countries enforcing it, and lessen the volume of their own trade, the natural laws of which cannot be thwarted without injury to all concerned.

Is there not a better way? Responsible as Germany is for the war, and wicked, lawless and cruel as have been her methods of conducting it, we should put aside any thought of descending to her level by vindictive and revengeful action, and consider only what strict justice demands, and what, giving the fullest effect to that, will interfere least with the full resumption of the operation of the laws of trade and commerce, which is, on every account, and for all peoples, most desirable.

Germany, to meet the demands of justice, should be made to suffer the full penalty of the laws of war, of nations, and of humanity, which she has violated. There should be assessed by an impartial tribunal the actual damages for which under these laws she must be held responsible: every ship sunk or burnt, every building needlessly destroyed, every section of country wantonly ravaged, every payment and all labor wrongfully exacted, every injury inflicted in contravention of existing treaties, every life lawlessly taken, and every ascertainable act of cruelty, should be included; to these should be added the millions of which she robbed France after the Franco-Prussian war, which she purposely brought on; and every foot of territory which she took possession of then, or has occupied since, must of course be at once surrendered.

The commission should apportion the amount to be received among the sufferers; and to secure its payment, the Allied Powers should jointly take possession of all German custom houses and railroads, and of the potash mines, and retain them until the last penny called for has been paid, if it takes fifty years. Germany's entire war debt should be invalidated.